



The Northern Lights

Vol 33, Issue 13 North Central High School, 1801 E. 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240 Friday, April 28, 1989

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READ ALL ABOUT IT...please

Financial problems lead to cutbacks in school system

by Ann Banta

There will be the equivalent of three and one-half fewer teachers in North Central classrooms next fall as the result of recent Reductions In Force (R.I.F.'s) stemming from Washington Township's serious financial problems.

The township's cash reserves fell from \$2.9 million in January 1987 to its current \$1.5 million. These funds are being used to pay monthly bills as the district runs out of money for the academic programs.

Efforts to correct the problem will include the movement of about 13 N.C. teachers to the middle school level, and the shift of some middle school teachers to the elementary schools. This decision allows the administrators to RIF only three and one-half teachers, according to Charles Roach, instead of 14 was originally planned.

A school board committee is now considering a tax referendum that, if passed, would raise revenue for education.

Washington Township's assistant superintendent for finance, William Fellmy believes that this may be the

only choice. "You don't want to do a referendum unless you are pretty sure that you can pass it because if you fail, it gives the district a black eye for years to come. But it's worth trying because cuts are inevitable without it," said Fellmy.

However, more than \$50 million will be spent by the township for construction and renovation projects that are already under way. This obvious contradiction is caused by the state law which divides the budget into separate funds and forbids the movement of money from one fund to another. Thus, money set aside for construction and renovation cannot be used for such things as paying teachers' salaries.

"We will continue the possibility of R.I.F.'s for three to four years," says Roach. He added that natural attrition of teachers will hopefully take care of most of the future reductions. A current rise in enrollment at the lower grade levels "could put more of a strain on the financial situation," Roach commented, but he also said that the increased number of tax-payers might balance the rise in costs.

Vandals ransack school over spring break

by Bridget Graham

A robbery took place at N.C. between one and two A.M. Thursday, April 6. Two teenagers- one a current N.C. student, the other an N.C. graduate- allegedly broke into the general office, faculty lounge, bookstore, attendance office, and athletic office, apparently looking for money.

The break-in was discovered by Mr. Keller, a custodian who said he heard footsteps as he entered the building at five A.M. that morning. The alleged perpetrators were later apprehended and the stolen material recovered.

The robbery was accompanied by vandalism. The black panther statue in the faculty lounge was broken, and an intercom speaker was torn off the wall. The screen of a computer terminal was smashed as were other

Chess team takes third place in state

by Paul Jaskunas

On Saturday, April 8 the chess team won third place in the state competition in Terre Haute, doing better than any other N.C. squad this decade. Twenty-six teams qualified for the event in which Dave Brown, Mike Herron, and Joe and Charles Wong represented North Central.

Huge cast to perform "Fame"

by Kim Worzalla

A group of 65 students with diverse talents will present the play "Fame" on May 4, 5, and 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the North Central auditorium.

Tickets will be on sale next week for \$3.00, and can be purchased at the cafeteria ticket booth or from cast members.

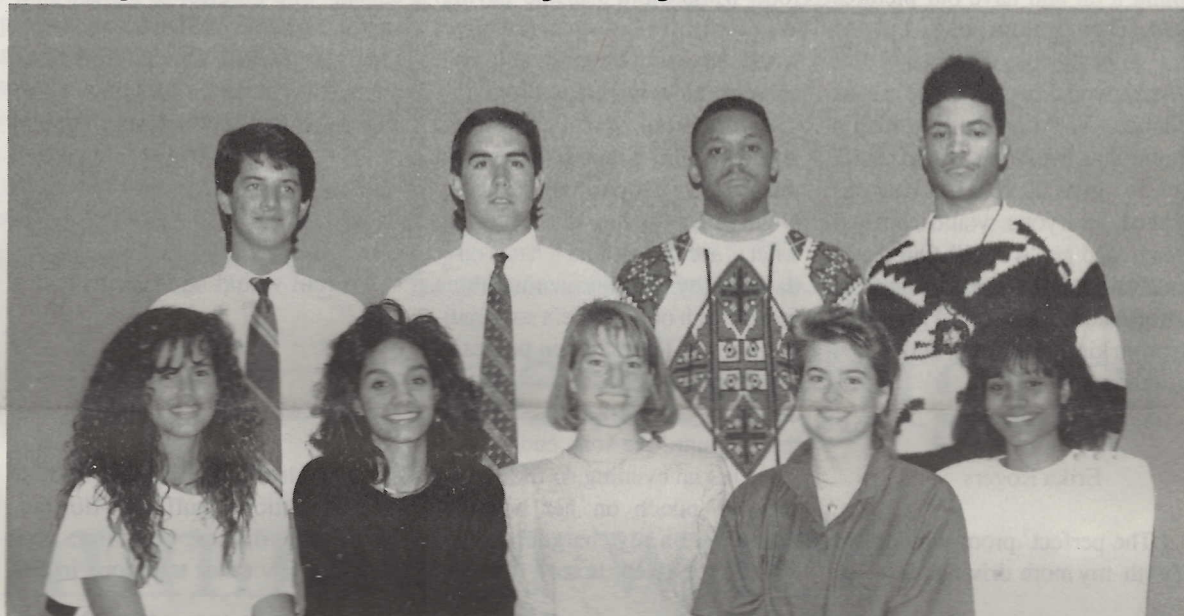
The play, which is based on the original screenplay by Christopher Gore, is about the High School of the Performing Arts in New York City. Leading cast members include

Marin Venturi (Mrs. Sherwood), Jennifer Taybos (Miss Berg), Shane Whybrew (Mr. Farrell), Meghan Parker (Doris), Kim Floyd (Coco), Mike Grant (Leroy), David Wald (Ralph), and Tad Armstrong (Montgomery).

The performance will follow the lives of the students and their teachers from freshman year to graduation, tracing their development as both performers and people. Four areas of the school- drama, music, dance, and academics- will be represented on stage. Although it is not a

musical, the play does include music and dance numbers, as well as original music written by NC students Ben Prince and Homer Gaines. Student choreographers are Mindy Bepko and Nissa Wermund.

The entire cast, which includes dancers and musicians as well as actors, will remain on stage for the entire first act, as spotlighted groups perform a small vignettes. This is an unusual technique, and Mr. Lineback, the director, states that it is challenging to coordinate so many things at one time.



1989 Prom Court (from left to right): Brian Jacobson, Patrick Lauer, David Corbitt, Damon Keough, Kevin Anker (not pictured), Stephanie Levine, Jill Hardin, Rianne Stone, Amy Allen, Nicole Beaven
photo by Stephanie Cravens

Speech team members advance to national level

by Tanya Marsh

The North Central Speech Team is sending three students to National Competition in Denver this summer as a result of recent contests. Jason Fruits qualified in United States Extemporaneous, Maseer Bade placed first in the Senate, and Pai-ling Yin finished second in House A of Congressional competition.

Bade, a senior, went to Nationals last year in Foreign Extemp. and hopes that experience will be an advantage over other competitors. Fruits, another senior, and Yin, sophomore, are both going to Nationals for the first time. Yin is the

youngest qualifier this year from Central Indiana.

It is unusual for a school to qualify three students in one year since only 21 students are able to go from Central Indiana. Fruits, Bade, and Yin are expected to do well.

Board opts for new school

by Linda Zynger

After months of deliberation, the Washington Township School Board has finally decided to construct an eighth elementary school. The new grammar school will be called Fox Hill and will be located on the township's south west side.

The decision was made because of an increase in enrollment of grammar school children after a prolonged decline. During the past year, the school board has closed Wyndote, Fall Creek and temporarily closed Grandview and Crooked Creek. Parents are now questioning the recent decision to open another school as there are three available.

The board retaliated by claiming

that another school is necessary at this time because of overcrowding in John Strange, Allisonville, and on the west side. They considered renovating one of the old schools but found that to construct a new school would only cost a fraction more. Tax payers wanted a renovation because it would continue the major overhaul now underway.

The school will be built near the Washington Park Cemetery at 44th and Kessler. The board hopes the it will give many children a school with better facilities that is closer to their homes, which satisfies the parents and the community.

At this time, the exact cost of the construction is not known.

Feature

Prom: the nightmare continues

by Susie Mattler

It is the most anticipated event of the junior year, for some it is absolutely wonderful, but for others it can be agonizing. It is junior prom. Here are some juniors' responses when asked the question "What would be your ideal prom experience?"

"My date (who'd be a stud) and I would enter prom. We'd walk around a bit and have our pictures taken. Then, a slow song, but one with a beat, like Terence Trent D'Arby, would begin and we'd start to dance. We'd be cutting such a swathe that everyone would move back to give us room. After we finished, everyone would clap and scream and go "wooo!" Our dancing ability would be so utterly dumbfounding that they'd get rid of the prom king and queen and crown us in their place."

-Erika Rogers

"The perfect prom would start off with my mom driving me to my

date's house in my day-glo orange gremlin. After an interview with her father, I get my resume back, and in exchange I give him a copy of our agenda, in triplicate. She walks gracefully down the stairs, and I pin her corsage on under the strict supervision of her father. Off now, chauffeured by mom, to cuisine extraordinaire—six White Castle double cheeseburgers for me, four for my date, and one for mom. We go to the car with our food while mom's inside paying. We drive to Talbot street (the street where boys will be girls) and walk and eat. Now it's off to prom.

...Ah, prom, with Benny Clark and the Polka Kings playing great music, I request our song, Saturday Night Polka, and we dance, testing what is acceptable and what is dirty dancing by coming within three feet of each other. She's so beautiful, her full length green polyester dress, gracing her fragile neck down to her petite saddle shoes, dancing until the song ends.

What an evening so far! Not a drop of punch on her beautiful dress, nor on my bargain priced (\$7.50) tie-dyed tuxedo (a very

handsome ensemble). It nears 10:00, both of us are sleepy, and leave. Mom pulls around in that wonderful piece of day-glo technology, while I contemplate the excitement of staying up three hours past my bedtime. I am gallant, opening the door for my date, and holding up the seat so she can crawl in, while I yell "shot gun", and proceed to sit next to mom.

We get to her house, I walk her to the door, and then it comes, sheer ecstasy, as she quickly kisses my cheek. She giggles, as I black-out, caught up in the thrill of the moment. I stumble back to the car, in a daze, puppy-love, at last. Oh, such a night. Yes—this is the perfect junior prom."

-Kevin Anker

"Prom would be ideal if I had a date."

-Terra Hoskins

"The ideal? Well I guess I'd like all the traditional stuff—the flowers, the limo, dinner, dancing...and maybe a few other traditions in be-

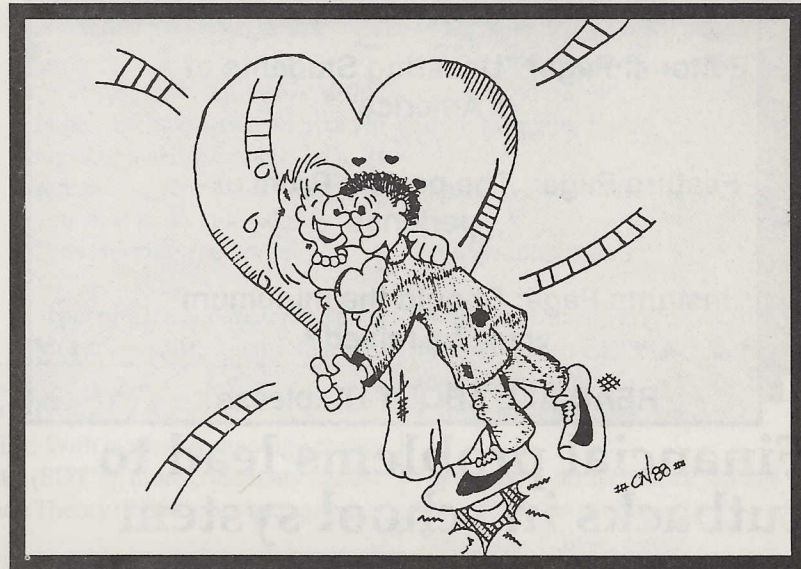
Nimz, publicity committee chairman with the help of Jake Miller and Todd Gardener. Another project that is "in the creation stages," for spring according to Paul Yonover, Student Council President, is the William Bugher Scholarship Fund.

Another aspect of Student Council that in the public's interest is the plans that the new President, Kevin Anker and Vice President, Jim Birge have for next year.

Kevin is presently involved in Student Council as assistant chairman for the library committee. His aspirations for next year include more Student Council/administration interaction, spending more money on more worthy causes, and possibly expanding the donut/bagel sales to two or three times a week. As a blanket statement about his plans for next year Kevin said that, "I plan to rely upon ideas from representatives and Council chairpersons because one man shouldn't decide the fate of everybody."

Jim's involvement in Student Council includes being the student service committee assistant chairman and working the donut/bagel sales on Friday mornings with Martina Nehrling.

Concerning plans for next year Jim stated that "we [Kevin and himself]



tween!"

-Danielle Rifkin

"My ideal prom date would be a friend "with an edge". Someone who's friendship is secure within itself, yet something more may come of it if a little effort is put forth in the area of flirting. He (the date) should be romantic but not sticky sweet, sort of serious but not stuffy. Above

all, he must want to have fun. I have yet to find one such as this, however, I've not given up hope. If anyone out there qualifies or knows someone who does, please get in touch with me as soon as possible, preferably before May 20."

-Robin Rodenberg

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Student Council '89 - '90

by Cheri Radigan

Student Council's newest creation this year has been the North Central Student Council Fight Song Contest. The two directors of the contest are Joe Mishkin, co-chairman of the spirit committee and Scott Theisen, co-chairman for the recognition committee.

The contest will take place once or twice a week. Three students will be called down to the office to sing the North Central fight song. "This is an equal opportunity contest," says Joe, because the students are randomly chosen from an all school roster on which the names of students are listed alphabetically.

According to Scott, "People don't sing it [the fight song] 'cause they don't know it, but if everyone knows it then people won't be embarrassed about singing it." So, the purpose of the contest says Joe, "is to get people to learn the fight song and have fun

doing it!"

Each day's winner will be determined by Scott and Joe. Once a winner is chosen that person will receive a prize of about a ten dollar value. These prizes are donated by the community from places such as McDonalds, Noble Romans, Ben and Jerry's, Nick's Sweet Retreat, and there will be even more to come. Joe encourages everyone that, "if you get a pass to come down, you really should."

Several events are lined up for this spring including the on going carnation sales directed by Scott Theisen, the Spring Bash which will be coordinated by Martina Nehrling co-chairperson of the cafeteria committee, and NC Prix, to be coordinated by David Wu and Mike Nurok, co-chairmen of the campus committee. Publicity for these events will be done by Chris

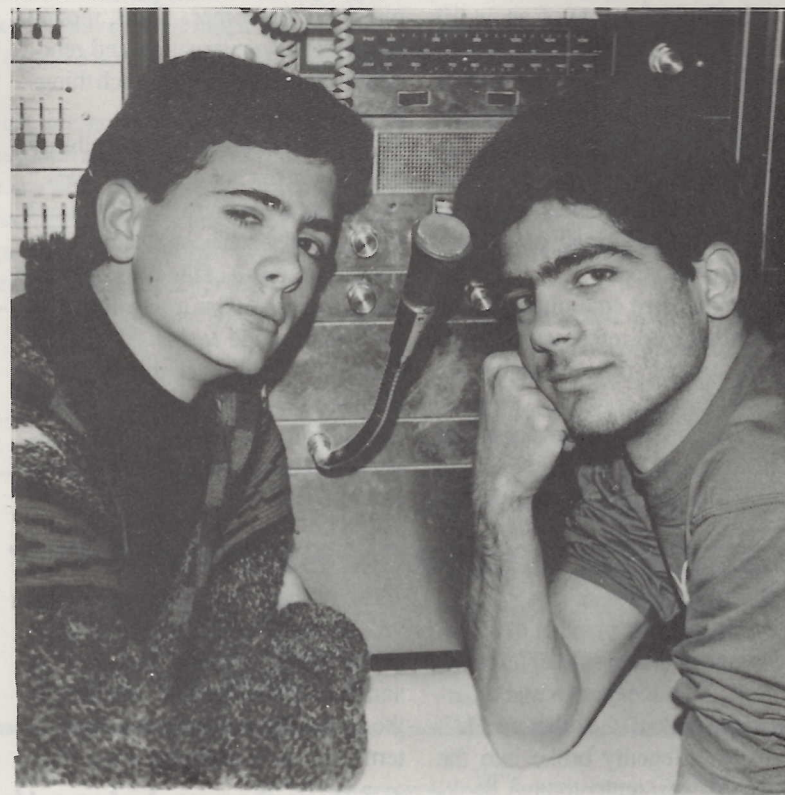


photo by Charles Wong are adamant about reviving Central-fest." When he was asked about a smoking lounge, which was mentioned in his speech he replied, "My view is not changed on the need for a smoking lounge. My goal is to keep the smoke out of the restrooms. If Mr. Roach's method of expulsion works, great! But if not, I think mine

Scott Theisen and Joe Mishkin should be given a chance."

Jim commented on working with Kevin by saying, "We are both from the mindset that Student Council is fun but also should accomplish things in a practical sense. We are not just a symbol of student rights but are there to get things done."

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Insights

Minimum wage increase would be costly

by Brad Evans

Anyone could make the same mistake; after all, economics was not a required course for high-school graduation until just recently. Surely, realizing this situation, we can forgive Senator Ted Kennedy for his misdirection regarding the minimum wage issue.

In the House a bill sponsored by Augustus Hawkins of California suggests a raise in the minimum wage from the current \$3.35 to \$5.05 over a period of four years. A companion bill, proposed by Senator Kennedy, offers a raise to \$4.65 over three years and thereafter sets the minimum wage permanently at half the average hourly wage of American workers.

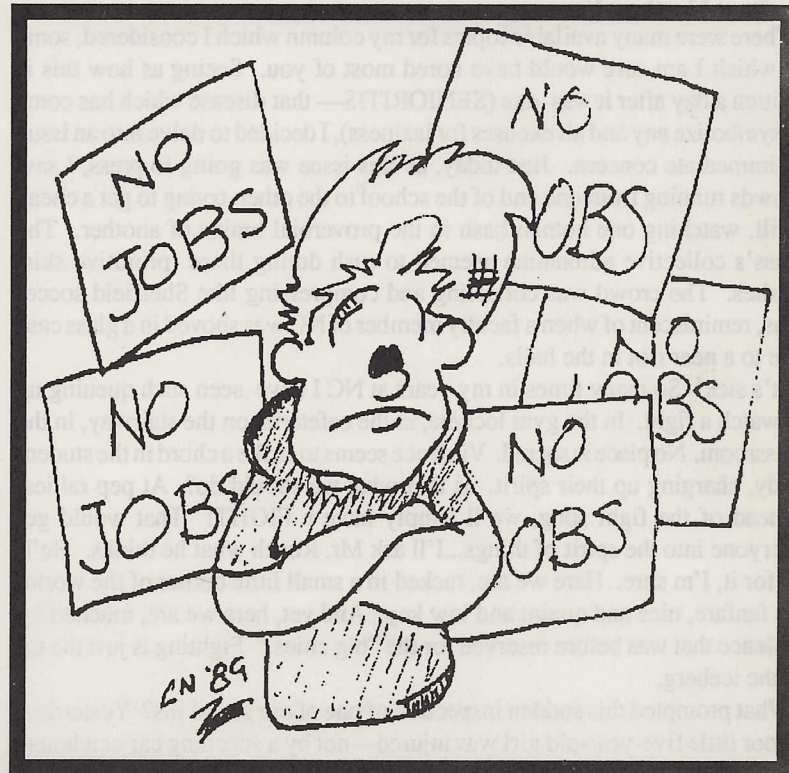
Maybe it is beyond the grasp of the senator and Representative Hawkins, but a simple understanding of supply-demand interactions can clear up the situation for others willing to learn. As stated by "The New Republic" in its May 16th issue, "You raise the cost of each worker, employers scale back their hiring accordingly, and the result (clearly delimited along the x-axis) is a loss of jobs — not to mention a small dose of inflation (the most vicious of all taxes), as production costs rise." Similarly, the current price would be shown to fall on a point well above

the minimum wage without the forced increases. This should make sense to even the simplest of senators — an unnatural rise in the cost of labor will force employers to both limit their number of workers as well as slightly raise their prices (the aforementioned "dose of inflation").

A general theory, finding its roots in the political structure, is once again blossoming and this time attracting the attention of many supporting a radically increased minimum wage. The theory states that anything is necessarily better than nothing and it is an illusion which more often than not can lead to disaster economically. Proponents of an increased minimum wage see the new bill as offering a better standard of living for many in the lower income brackets, labeling their opponents as heartless conservatives. Although lacking a heart, the facts would tend to show the conservatives to be mentally acute, realizing that over two-thirds of the minimum wage earners live in households netting incomes of more than \$18,000 per year, an amount well above the \$11,600 set as the poverty level income, and thus the target households of this type of social programs. In short it would seem that the new

minimum wage bills might hurt those it intends to help most, while simultaneously helping those not necessarily in need.

There are many more viable alternatives such as tax credits, which should be directed to only those sectors in need of governmental aid. They are programs avoiding the many problems of unemployment and concentrating on improved welfare. The point is that there do exist options, permitting us to ignore our "anything is better than nothing" theory. The details of these other programs are another economic lesson all together. Rather than to further confuse the minds of our politicians with too much truth at any one time, let's just hope for the understanding of this one supply-demand principle and a lot of common sense.



High time for higher minimum wage

by Nikhil Pai

In seventeenth century Spain there originated a maxim that demonstrated the value of diligence. The proverb, attributed to Pedro Calderon de la Barca translates: "Even in dreams good works are not wasted." Similarly, there is, or rather there was a dream in the United States that dealt with the importance of both hard work and honest dealings.

"The Great American Dream," it was called. In the past years, however, the greatness of the American dream has constantly and alarmingly deteriorated. What was before a mandate for the land of the free and the home of the brave has presently become one for the land of both the free, and the not-so-free, and the home of the socially subservient. It is a far reaching problem that can be evinced in a single facet of American economic life — the minimum wage.

Since its inception in 1938 the minimum wage has been periodically adjusted to compensate for the changing national economy. In the past nine years, however, the minimum wage has stagnated to a value that is far below the poverty line. Its purchasing power, or real value, has also dropped by nearly one-third.

Currently, a full time, year round minimum wage earner will record a \$6,968 salary, which is 3/4 of the poverty level for a family of three, and 3/5 for a family of four. Clearly, there is a mandate to aid America's working poor.

For in their struggle to feed, clothe, and shelter their family, is a true moral issue that transcends the sputtering of economists. There is something drastically amiss when the benefits of a job do not entail the ability to lead a livable life. What zest, what zeal can be expected from those who must work only to remain poor?

Far more appalling, however, are the equivocal repetitions given by deterrents to a higher minimum wage. Primarily, they warn of a massive job loss and a subsequent inflationary cycle. Doomsayers fail to consider, however, that while national employment is rising, the number of minimum wage earners is constantly decreasing. The Federal Bureau of Labor estimates a 35% smaller work pool by 1995. With fewer affected employers impact would then be only marginal. "Even for teens," Commonweal magazine states, "a 10% increase in the minimum wage would

produce only an estimated 1% decrease in job opportunities. The positives far outweigh the negatives."

The minimum wage, as it stands now, does not provide for a life of sustenance for its participants. Rather it entrenches the poor or untrained, and thus their families, within a life of poverty. To insure a livable life, and thus fulfill the promises of the "American Dream," the United States must raise the minimum wage.

Editor's note:

The issues that are dealt with on this page are not necessarily the opinions of the writers or editor.



Editorial

In My Opinion

by Paul Matthew Yonover

There were many available topics for my column which I considered, some of which I am sure would have bored most of you. Seeing as how this is written a day after it was due (SENIORITIS—that disease which has come to symbolize any and all excuses for laziness), I decided to delve into an issue of immediate concern. Just today, as this issue was going to press, I saw crowds running from one end of the school to the other, trying to get a cheap thrill, watching one human bash in the proverbial brains of another. The mass's collective adrenaline seemed to rush during these primitive skirmishes. The crowd was collecting and compressing like Sheffield soccer fans, reminiscent of when a faculty member of NC was shoved in a glass case due to a near riot in the halls.

It's sick! So many times in my years at NC I have seen such queuing up to watch a fight. In the gym lockers, in the cafeteria, on the stairway, in the classroom. No place is sacred. Violence seems to strike a chord in the student body, charging up their spirit. Is that what we should do? At pep rallies, instead of the fight song, we'll simply have a FIGHT! That would get everyone into the spirit of things...I'll ask Mr. Roach what he thinks. He'll go for it, I'm sure. Here we are, tucked in a small little corner of the world. No fanfare, nice and quaint and low key. And yet, here we are, touched by violence that was before reserved for the "big cities." Fighting is just the tip of the iceberg.

What prompted this sudden inspection of one of our social ills? Yesterday, a poor little five-year-old girl was injured—not by a speeding car or a house fire—but a bomb! A bomb, purposely planted to induce injury, blew up in her face in a K-Mart store.

The Castleton K-Mart—what I would consider a discount safehouse—is now a forum of unspeakable destruction. It's bad enough that little children are blown to itty-bitsy pieces in the Middle East. It's bad enough that children are orphaned and maimed in Vietnam and Afghanistan. But Indianapolis, IN?? We thought that terrorism was someone else's problem. No, it would never happen HERE. Today, we begin a new chapter in American life—where no one is safe.

Apathy Club gains support at NC

A satire by Paul Jaskunus

First of all, I don't care if you like this article. I may not even finish it. I'll probably just go watch television after a paragraph or two so don't get too interested. The only reason I'm writing some dumb editorial is because this student council election and all the talk about student apathy kind of ticked me off a little— but only a little. It's not like I'm highly opinionated on the issue, or anything.

I'd just like everyone to know that there's no way in creation student council or the school board or anyone is gonna purge NC of apathy. You see, there's a secret society in our school called Uncaring Students of America (U.S.A.) and I guess you could call me a proud member, though I'm not all that proud. We're getting stronger everyday; our member-

ship surpasses that of any other organization at NC. USA's dogma is fairly simple; each uncaring student's purpose is to have no purpose other than to help himself. Do you find that selfish? I hope so. We're quite fond of our selfishness. The drawback is we're not very unified. No one came to the meetings so we stopped having them and only one member was willing to buy the T-shirt (that same member quit when he found out there were no secret-pal locker decorations). Nevertheless, we are taking over the school. We have substantially infiltrated every section of the student body. Believe it or not, there are several people on student council who would be card-carrying members of USA if we had cards to carry. Hundreds of kids who could care less if you broke out in tears in the middle of A-Hall. They would walk

right over you. The secret to our success is our sponsors. There are millions of them out there. I'm talking about the teachers in our school who'd rather show a filmstrip than communicate with their students, all the parents who pressure their kids to go to medical school because that's where the dough is, and the kind souls on Wall Street. I'm talking about anyone who wants to be rich for the sake of being rich and everyone who has seen a child dying on the news and hasn't felt a twinge of pain deep inside. Thanks. USA wouldn't be where it is today without you.

This is getting a bit too sentimental for me. I'm going to cut out and sit on a couch somewhere. Don't give this talk about killing student apathy. Right now we apathesists have got too much support.



School machine breaks down

by Caroline C. Coons

Someone asked me what was happening at school. I told that someone and that someone replied, "What does it matter to me? I can't change it." I believe this to be the most base level, the point of no return if you're a pessimist. I'm an optimist, so I envision an oppressed people (the students) rising up from their ashes like a phoenix to build a new, manageable school system in which the power is vested in the students. The Declaration of Independence, truly a list of 33 grievances to a king (principal), offers this alternative. It says "whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends [when it has not derived its just powers from the consent of the governed], it is the Right of the People to alter, or abolish it, and to institute a new Government."

I do seek to change the system because I do not believe in it. My problem, however, lies in finding that person with whom I can argue. I don't believe such a person exists. I believe that everyone is a part. After all, we are all part of the school system and without people (especially students) the system cannot work. A machine cannot work without parts. Our school system is like a machine - the students, teachers, administrators, and parents are the parts. The teachers teach, the students are educated, the parents finance the school's operation, and the administrators keep the whole operation running smoothly (supposedly). They are supposed to clean and oil the other parts. There's rust on our machine, but the students are not consulted directly. In fact, we're not even represented in the decision-making. We are merely dictated to. Evidently, there are two factions at school - all of them and us. Most administrators, teachers, and parents cry of indifference, apathy, lack of initiative and spirit, then give us (the students) the democratic

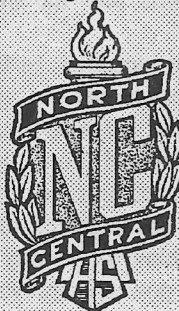
system in which we participate. I've heard it said that the best way to produce initiative and genuine concern from a human body is to practice democracy in which faith in the individual and his/her ability to contribute to the general welfare of others is superior. It seems to me that the energy of our machine is concentrated to one part - the oilers and cleaners. It is unnatural, an impossibility even for a machine to operate in this fashion, yet we have managed to break the laws of nature itself. The power (energy) should rest with the heart of the students who compose the heart of the system, but this is not the case.

It's my conclusion that our machine needs to be refashioned. Our machine cannot continue to function and "sput" out information in this old manner. It is too unnatural. It would lead to too much harm for everyone. It is already leading to harm. Observe the student, teacher, and parent reaction to our principal's latest address. I firmly believe that the power of our machine should lie with all the parts of our machine. Power cannot be concentrated - it must be dispersed and dispersed so that there is balance. Each part must be looked upon equally and with respect. This not only means that the students must respect authority, but that the authority must respect the students. Each part must have a representative voice whereby no part is excluded from the decision making. I feel that it is only in this way that progress will occur. "Open the system!" I declare, "or our machine will be dead."

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The Northern Lights is published bi-weekly by the students of North Central High School, 1801 East 86th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46240. Printing is done by the students of the J. Everett Light Career printing courses. The Northern Lights is a member of the Indiana High School Press Association and Quill and Scroll.

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Sports

Seniors lead golf team in early season

By Kirk Johannessen

The North Central boys' golf team swung into action with an early season victory over Warren Central and a close third in the ten team North Central Invitational.

The Panthers defeated Warren Central on April 13 by the score 163-171. Freshman Tony Wilks recorded the best score for the team with a 38. Following him were senior Dave Boncosky, 40, senior Greg Thompson, 42, senior Ryan Gavigan, 43, junior Brian Jacobson, 47 and senior Jason Newby, 48.

On April 15, the Panthers finished a close third behind top rated Brebeuf and defending invitational champion Carmel. The three teams finished exactly two strokes apart with Brebeuf recording a score of 313, followed by Carmel, with 315, and North Central with 317.

With the team getting off to a good start, it is hopeful they will be able to improve on last season's 6-5 record.

Commenting on the goals for his team this year, Coach John Friedersdorf said, "We want to have a winning season. We want to win the Marion County Tour-



Junior John Hale hits a long fly ball to the left field warning track in a 3-3 tie against Brownsburg.

Photo by J. Kaminker

nament again and we want to get out to the state tournament again, since we haven't for two years."

Coach Friedersdorf will have the luxury of having five varsity lettermen returning to help achieve these goals. The varsity team members include Wilks, Boncosky, Thompson, Gavigan, Jacobson and Newby.

"With all the experience we have back, once we get some matches under our belt, and get our game into shape, our strengths should outweigh our weaknesses," explained Coach Friedersdorf.

The team will have to get its game into shape soon due to the tough area competition. Coach Friedersdorf pointed

out that Brebeuf, Carmel and Speedway will be the toughest competition in the area.

For the team to be successful this year, Coach Friedersdorf said, "We will have to have leadership out of our seniors to show us the way."

Tomorrow the golf team will participate in the Chatard Invitational at noon at Coffin Golf Course. Other important upcoming matches for the team are against Lebanon and Chatard at Ulen Golf Course on May 4, the Speedway Invitational on the sixth and the County meet, May 13.

0-3-1 team searches for Bradley's 500th

By Patrick Mulry

When the North Central baseball squad opened its season, coach Tom Bradley was looking for his five-hundredth win as a coach, a plateau reached by few. Things were looking good for Bradley then; he had his big win yet to come. Unfortunately, he still does.

Bradley's squad has not yet won a game. The closest they came was a three-three tie against Brownsburg, in their opening game on April 10. Since then the team has lost Bloomington South twice in a doubleheader and to Decatur Central. To say the least, Coach Bradley is not pleased with the play of his 0-3-1 Panthers.

The bane of the problem seems to come from two areas, the two areas most commonly blamed for problems; the pitching and the hitting. As of April 18, senior Bruce Richards led the team's sluggers, hitting .454. Senior catcher Tim Denney was second, with a respectable .400, while junior Andrew Schrage came in third, batting .375. However, the batting averages fall off from there.

Problems with putting runs on the board usually causes problems for the pitchers, for then they have to make sure to not give up any runs. Pitching under this kind of pressure takes control, but the NC pitching staff has had serious control problems so far this season. Senior Todd Geyer had pitched only five innings by April 15 but had not given up any runs. He made up for his low ERA by walking seven batters in that short period of time. Don't get the idea that Geyer is the only pitcher with a control problem. Combined, the NC hurlers have put 30 opposing batters on base on balls, compared to only nine walks given up by NC's opponents in the first four games.

However, to every dark cloud there is a silver lining. The Panthers have nowhere to go but up from here. Coach Bradley feels that the errors are not due to bobbled balls or overthrows on steal attempts as much as they are from mental errors like lack of concentration. The rest of NC's schedule is filled out with some weak teams, but strong ballclubs like Mt. Vernon are waiting to try and defeat the NC squad. Hopefully, Bradley will pick up his win against one of them.

Bleecker, Demars friendship helps tennis team

By Jim Birge

They both began their tennis careers at age six with Mrs. Barbara Wynne. By the age of 10, both girls were competing against each other in the Summer Wonders program. When they reached the age of 12, they were sparring with one another for the higher spot on the Tournament Player's ranking ladder.

And so it goes with North Central girls' tennis team members and sophomores Ali Bleecker and Shiela Demars. Ever since they can remember, they have been competing against each other in viciously intense matches.

Not surprisingly, this battling is again the case as both players vie for the #1 spot on the Panther team. Only complicating matters for Ali and Shiela is that they also are doubles' partners during the tournament season. When asked how this situation had affected their friendship, Shiela responded, "We've had our ups and downs. It's hard to play somebody in a competitive singles match, and then a half an hour later play with her in doubles."

Fortunately for the team, both players agree that being on the same

squad has not heightened their competitive nature towards each other, but brought them closer together. As Ali explains, "Being on North Central's team has helped our friendship because we know the team's chances of success rest on both of us playing well, not one of us."



Senior Dina Bleecker serves against L.C. Photo by J. Kaminker

Softballers strive to top last year

By Jim Birge

Though the girls' softball team finished a very impressive fourth in the state finals last year, they are setting their goals higher this

year, seeking a state championship.

From the looks of their lineup, it appears that they have ample reason to be confident. They have six returning seniors, all of whom held starting positions last year. The picture is further

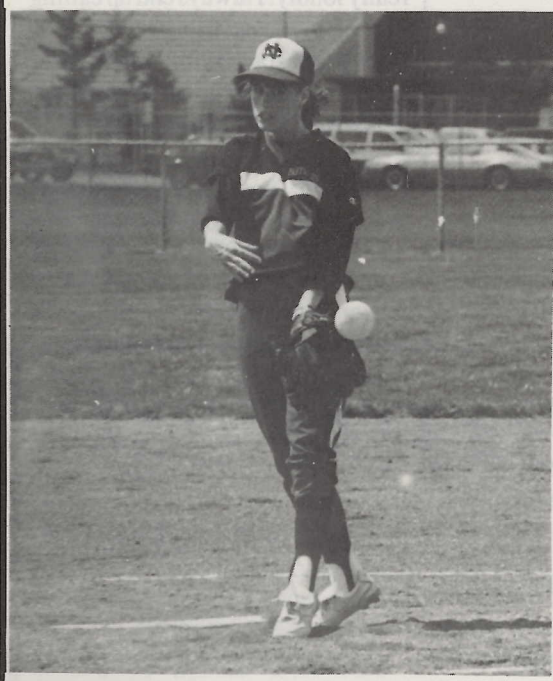
brightened by the fact that last year's state champions, Northridge, lost their ace pitcher due to graduation.

This group excels defensively as a unit. This statement is illustrated by the statistic that during all of last season there were only three games in which an opponent scored more than five runs on them. This strong defense is enhanced by their strong pitching corps, which con-

sists of staff ace Patty Borches, with Vonna Milner and Claire Hochman backing her up. Patty demonstrated her ability in the first game of the season, when she shut out Hamilton Southeastern, five to zero.

Regarding the offensive aspect of her team, Coach Carolyn Coyne says, "On any given day, a different person might be the most important offensive producer. It will be a team effort offensively." She did say that she hopes Amy Timble would be a crucial contributor offensively.

Team attitude seems to be quite positive. If the strong leadership provided by co-captains Laura Diehl and Amy Timble combines with the talent and enthusiasm of the younger players then the softball team should be difficult to stop. As one of the players put it, "Right now, we think that our chances are great. We have a great defense with enough good hitters to keep us in any game. This is much the same team that finished fourth in the state last year, only with more experience and some strong new players."



Patty Borches pitches to a Chatard batter in an early season game. Photo by J. Kaminker

Backpage

All Stressed Out

As long as there are schools, jobs, homework assignments, SAT's, term papers, college decisions, and anything else that clutters the mind and causes mental anguish there will be stress. What do you do when the pressure gets to be too much? How do you relieve stress?

"The solution to stressful situations such as heavy traffic on 86th street where few people use turn signals, or an impossible test, or your self-evaluation of your future schooling is simple. Act on your feelings. Try striking a non-living such as a pillow, a car, or your desk. You'll feel better!"

Scott Tittle, sophomore

"I eat a lot. Most of it isn't even near any of the four food groups."

Amy Gerkenmeyer, freshman

"If I'm stressed out, I usually talk about it with my friends or I yell my brains out."

Stacy Philpott, sophomore

"A can of Coke, a bag of Cheetos and Bloom County."

Joe Wong, senior

"Play basketball."

Josh Cohen, freshman

"The way I deal with stress is by listening to my walkman, lifting weights, and riding my bike."

Mike Friedman, sophomore

"I turn on the radio, lay on my bed, and think."

Brian Progar, freshman

"I curl up with a few of John Keats' letters and poems and just ponder his philosophy of Negative Capability."

Dan Valliere, senior

"Hindu meditation. If the above doesn't work, I beat my head against a wall."

Jennifer Lachey, junior

"Go into my room and close the

door. Put in my Kenny G. tape and turn it up really loudly and sit there. If I have to cry, scream, or throw a fit, I just let it all out because then the music drowns out my anguish."

Pamela Footman, senior

"Well, sometimes I yell at my boyfriend, which usually doesn't make him feel real well. Or else I scream at my family. I guess I'm just a vocal person?!"

Lise Keeth, sophomore

the volume control. And if that doesn't work, I hit myself upside the head with a pair of two-by-fours."

Anonymous, junior

"Being a senior is stressful. I just tell myself that I'll be outta here soon and at college on my own."

Mary White, senior

"Blast an old Zeppelin album."

David Roth, freshman

"Usually, I sit in my room, put my

learn self-hypnosis. I am basically stress-free now. Try it-it really works!"

Adrianne LaClave, senior

"A. I just scream a lot. B. If that fails, I just tape a piece of Spam to my head and run through the halls screaming, 'No matter how thin you slice it, it's still baloney!'"

Dina Heuring, freshman

"I put on a hat and wear my Spuds McKenzie shirt. Then I listen to

lungs while I shower."

Jason Fruits, senior

"I reassure myself that nothing that ever happens at North Central has anything to do with real life."

John Stimson, junior

"I usually sleep on it and then it goes away."

Anonymous, senior

"I turn on Dance Party USA (if it's on) and blast it on TV and dance all over the furniture."

Ginny Mitchell, sophomore

"What do I do to relieve stress? I don't-that's the problem!"

Backpage Editor, senior

"Stress has become such an everyday experience for me that my entire reaction can be summed up in a simple statement: 'Just deal with it.' Some people freak out, some withdraw into their own little shell, but I have found that the best way to counter stress is just to solve the problem causing the stress, and as quickly as possible."

Noah Doyle, junior

"To relieve stress I try to indulge in other activities to keep myself occupied. Also a massage is nice."

Tylette Grace, senior

"I just say, 'Don't worry, Be happy.'"

Anonymous, junior

"Pray for the weekend to come!"

Monica Strom, freshman

"I try to deal with it myself by going in my room and listening to the radio really loudly. I always end up calling one of my best friends yelling at them then I start crying while apologizing for taking it out on them."

Jeanette Hizer, sophomore

"You don't- and pray it goes away!"

Selena Miller, sophomore

Floating- new stress relief?

Close the refrigerator, refrain from pounding the wall, and prepare to relax. With modern technology comes the invention of a new method of relieving stress-Sensory Deprivation Tanks (SDT's), more commonly known as flotation tanks. This experience, termed Restricted Environment Simulation Theory (REST), has been gaining popularity as a method of obtaining complete relaxation.

Generally, the tanks are 8' long and about 4' high, although they do vary in design. The tank is small enough to give a sense of isolation, yet "You can touch the sides if you want to," explains Kathy Angell, a senior who recently visited a flotation center. "You can't put your arm under the water because it pops back up," she goes on, "You float completely on top of the water." The tank is filled with approximately 800 pounds of epsom salt in 10' of water. The water is maintained at around 93.5, skin temperature, so that the floater will receive neither warm nor cold sensations.

Before entering the tank, the floater must take a shower. The tank center provides all of the necessities (shampoo, soap, towels, contact lens cases, etc.) for the floater's convenience. The floater is guaranteed complete privacy throughout the session. Although many prospective customers fear claustrophobia, these feelings seldom result. The floater is able at any time to exit the tank and the door to the tank may also be propped open to allow the entrance of light into the tank. Comments Scott Keller, a senior who recently experienced floating, "I wasn't claustrophobic at all. I felt like I was floating in a huge pool." Another option is to listen to music during the session. The tank center provides their own music, but the customer may wish to bring in his own music cassettes. Music may be listened to for the first few minutes as well as the last few minutes of the session, or it may be played throughout the hour. Once again, the floater is in complete control of the experience and may suit it to fit his wishes. Keller states that "I was kind of bored, I would have liked to have heard music all the way through." According to Angell, "You lose track of time and everything. You have no idea how long you have been there."

The sensory deprivation tank, invented by John Lilly, has been rapidly integrated into society. Today, thousands of people in America as well as overseas have tried floating or use it as a form of stress relief. Such famous personalities as Robin Williams, Kris Kristofferson, and Yoko Ono are the proud owners of such tanks. Athletes, such as players from the Philadelphia Eagles and the Philadelphia Phillies have found floating to be helpful in healing injuries, reducing pain, eliminating fatigue, and improving their overall performance. However, floating is not the answer for everyone. "I kept thinking that there were better things that I could be doing with my time," remarks Tuller. Keller, on the other hand, admits that "Even though I had water squeaking in my ears for weeks, I did feel very relaxed."

There are two flotation tank centers in the Indianapolis area.

Kauffmans' Flotation Tank Center of Indianapolis- 8001 Westfield Blvd., 259-8001

Serenity Tank Center- 2070 E. 54th Suite 2, 251-9992

"I would tear every hair out of my head and swing from a flagpole screaming bloody murder."

Terra Hoskins, junior

"I listen to R.E.M.'s 'Radio Free Europe' (on CD) at level seven on

earphones on, and listen to some music."

Kelley Absher, senior

"I get so stressed out that I can't sleep at night. I went to a hypnotist and she made me tapes so I could

my walkman while eating McDonalds food."

Aaron Miller, freshman

"I sing 'Wild Thing' and 'Funky Cold Medina', with choreography included, at the top of my



HOW TO TELL IF YOU'RE STRESSED

1. YOU TRY TO FIND DEEPER MEANING IN THE LAST EPISODE OF ALF
2. YOU ENJOYED *BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE*
3. YOU TALK TO THE WALLS AND THEY TALK BACK